

CHAPTER 8

EMERGENCY VEHICLE POLICIES

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0801. AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE (AEV) POLICIES

- a. A security department vehicle shall be considered an AEV when it is equipped with approved warning lights and an approved siren.
- b. AEVs operated on naval installations in the United States will conform to the emergency lighting requirements of the local state code. As a general policy, emergency lighting on AEVs will be mounted on the roof of the vehicle with any additional operational lights mounted on fenders, grills, etc. Security officers may authorize certain vehicles to have lights inside of the vehicle on the dashboard or rear deck.
- c. Vehicles operated on Navy installations in foreign countries will use flashing red or red/blue combination lights as determined by local requirements.
- d. AEVs will have a siren installed in conformance with local laws and codes. The siren control shall be installed near/in combination with the vehicle's radio, and shall be placed in a location which allows the driver to safely reach it while driving and wearing a seat belt. Exceptions may be made only for unmarked vehicles where concealment of the radio and siren is required.
- e. AEVs will be equipped with seat and shoulder belts which must be used whenever the vehicle is in motion.
- f. In addition to the AEV equipment required by reference (b), each AEV will carry a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and highway warning signals (flares/reflective warning devices).

0802. INSPECTION OF VEHICLES

- a. All AEVs will be maintained in a peak, safe operating condition. Each AEV shall be inspected at 6-month intervals. Inspections shall be done by qualified personnel who will, at a minimum, check the following:
 - (1) Steering system - For any worn or loose parts and for proper adjustment.
 - (2) Brakes - For adequate lining and adjustment.
 - (3) Tires - For wear and alignment. (Retreaded tires will not be used).
 - (4) Seat belts - For proper operation and wear.
 - (5) Shock absorbers - For wear and alignment.

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(6) All driving/running lights - Operating properly.

(7) Emergency lights and sirens - Functioning properly.

b. AEVs will be checked prior to the start of each patrol using a checklist developed by the security officer. In the event items of a safety nature (such as defrosters, wipers, brakes, etc.) are not functioning properly, the vehicle shall not be used as an AEV until repairs have been accomplished.

c. The security department shall maintain a record of each semi-annual safety inspection on each AEV. These records shall include the date of the inspection, agency performing the inspection, and results. In the event unsafe conditions are found, a record of the corrective action, by whom accomplished, and date accomplished will be recorded.

0803. EMERGENCY RESPONSE POLICIES.

a. Definition. Emergency response is the rapid movement of police personnel in reaction to a serious incident. AEV response generally involves the following factors:

(1) The use of flashing/steady burning warning lights on the moving police vehicle.

(2) The use of an audible siren on the moving police vehicle.

(3) Operation of the police vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit. Emergency vehicle response is necessary in only two types of situations: (1) where there is a need to have police personnel at the scene of a serious incident faster than they could arrive without emergency response, and (2) when it is necessary to pursue an individual suspected of violating the law. Emergency vehicle response will be authorized only in those situations set forth in this section, and only when the safety of everyone involved has been considered.

b. Emergency equipment may be used in certain non-emergency situations, e.g., traffic stops, to warn of hazards, accidents, disabled vehicles, funeral escorts, traffic escorts, etc.

c. The use of an emergency vehicle to lead a non-emergency vehicle on the roadway under emergency conditions is prohibited. This situation often occurs when a motorist is transporting a sick or injured person and seeks police assistance. Police personnel should either call for medical assistance at the scene, transport the person in the police vehicle, or provide a non-emergency escort, as appropriate.

d. Emergency vehicle operation:

(1) The person initiating the emergency movement of the AEV will immediately broadcast that fact as soon as possible, and indicate the location, direction of travel, description of the vehicle and occupants, reason for the pursuit, changes of location and direction of travel during the pursuit, and location at the time the pursuit is terminated.

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(2) The patrol or shift supervisor may alter or terminate the emergency response of a patrol unit.

(3) Police personnel may violate traffic laws while operating AEVs when it is absolutely necessary, and when emergency lights and siren are engaged. Any driver of an AEV becoming involved in an accident while violating the law, even under emergency conditions, may be held accountable.

(4) Security department personnel operating unmarked vehicles may engage in pursuit only when the fleeing vehicle represents an immediate and direct threat to life or property. Whenever a marked vehicle becomes available to take over the pursuit, the unmarked vehicle will withdraw.

(5) Unless otherwise directed by the shift or patrol supervisor, no more than two patrol vehicles will become actively involved in a pursuit. Other patrolmen should be alert to the pursuit progress and locations.

(6) Patrolmen will not attempt to halt a suspect vehicle in a pursuit by striking the suspect's vehicle with the patrol vehicle.

(7) Navy law enforcement personnel are not authorized to engage in high speed pursuit off-base. In situations where a suspect refuses to stop on-base, personnel should alert the gate(s) via radio. Also have the dispatcher notify civilian law enforcement authorities, giving them a description of the vehicle and the nature of charges suspected. It is permissible, in instances of serious crimes committed on-base, for Navy law enforcement personnel to continue following the subject vehicle off-base providing they comply with all traffic laws and regulations and, furthermore, there is a command policy authorizing personnel to do so. Policies will be specified in a standard operating procedure (SOP); the SOP will be reviewed and approved by a judge advocate general.

0804. BICYCLE PATROLS. Bicycles may be used at the discretion of the command. If bicycles are used, the following minimum standards will apply:

a. Bicycles will be of the mountain/off-road or hybrid type. The bicycle will be clearly marked "Police" in a prominent fashion. The bicycles will be equipped with quick-release clips on the wheels and seat post.

b. Bicycle equipment will include safety gear required for new bicycles (brakes and reflectors), and will include front and rear lights (to be used during all periods of reduced lighting), a rear rack, and a rack bag and/or panniers to carry administrative items, baton, flashlight(s), and foul weather gear. Equipment to be carried will include:

(1) First aid kit.

(2) Bicycle repair kit (to include tools of the types and sizes necessary for that

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particular bicycle), a tire patching kit and/or one spare tube, tire pump, and a tire air gauge.

(3) At least one water bottle rack with water bottle.

(4) If pedal foot retainers are attached, they will be of the clipless variety.

c. Personnel assigned as bicycle patrolmen will be:

(1) Experienced in on and off-road bicycling, and capable of handling equipment repairs which could be expected to occur. Formal training will be provided, if locally available.

(2) Physically capable of riding the bicycle in the type terrain present at the command. Because of conditioning required, persons not qualifying in the past Physical Readiness Test will not be assigned as bicycle patrolmen until minimum physical standards are achieved.

(3) Equipped with an American Standard Testing Methods/American National Standards Institute-approved bicycle helmet, shatter-resistant bicycle glasses (clear and shaded lenses), padded gloves (regular or finger less), and padded shorts (or padded long-pants for colder weather). Other shorts/pants may be issued to be worn over the padded shorts, if desired. Footwear may be of the "gym-shoe" variety or of the "hiking boot" type to protect against ankle injuries.

(4) Patrolmen will be issued a portable radio capable of being carried on the belt.